PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As individuals we know how satisfying it is to affirm that You, O God, are the personal God who cares about our own needs and petitions. We know, too, how easily we can try to make Your nature so it fits with our own personal background or with our own particular Nation or with our own private interest. Yet, at our best moments we celebrate that You are God of all creation, that You are the judge of every people and Nation, and You have forgiveness and mercy available to every person. Help us, gracious God, to lift our vision of Your presence in our lives and of Your place and power in the universe so we see You as the creator and redeemer of all who seek Your grace. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RAHALL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TAKES ONE-THIRD OF THE YEAR TO PICK UP THE TAB FOR OUR BLOATED GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Katherin Whitehorn once said, "The easiest way for our children to learn about money is for you to have none." Well, if Katherin Whitehorn is right, then the first 130 days of this year America's children have earned their doctorate on money because during this time every penny earned by the hard-working men and women of this Nation has been taken away by local, State and Federal Government taxation. It did not go to pay for kids' education, it did not go to pay for the home mortgage, and it did not go to pay medical expenses. Instead, it all went to expanding government bureaucracies.

Mr. Speaker, fully one-third of this year's effort of these hard-working

Americans was spent just to pick up the tab of this bloated government bureaucracy. Decades of unchecked growth and deficit spending by the tax and spenders has left hard-working men and women of this country with this crushing tax burden.

The vast majority of Americans do not object to paying their fair share of taxes, but they do object to the suffocating level of taxation that exists today.

Mr. Speaker, for our children's sake let us allow hard-working families to keep more of their money, not less. I urge all of my colleagues to support meaningful tax reform this year.

OUR NUMBER ONE SECURITY THREAT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, China has accused America of deliberately bombing their embassy in Yugoslavia. That is unbelievable, and experts cannot believe this. I am not surprised. In fact, China has always considered America as their arch enemy.

Let us tell it like it is today:

The bombing of the Chinese embassy was an honest mistake. The Chinese fallout is no mistake. The reality is evident and clear. The number one security threat facing the American people is China. I might add it has been financed with American dollars.

I yield back all the missiles pointed at the United States of America, Mr. Speaker. Beam me up.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MUST NOT BE TOLERATED

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, May is Victims of Pornography Month. Today I want to mention an outrage:

The American Psychological Association recently published a study suggesting that sexual relationships between adults and children are less harmful than believed and might actually be positive for "willing" children. My colleagues heard correctly.

The authors of this study attacked the term "child sexual abuse" in favor of the term "adult-child sex." They conclude that child sexual abuse is not wrong unless the adult sexual encounter is unwanted by the child.

May I suggest that this outrageous junk science, as Dr. Laura Schlessinger calls it, is very offensive? All of us who are parents should be offended by this effort to normalize child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse does result in long-term psychological harm, and it must not be tolerated.

Shame on the American Psychological Association for giving a forum for such dangerous and unprofessional propaganda for pedophilia.

THERE WILL NEVER BE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO CUT TAXES

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tax Freedom Day and to reiterate my call for lower taxes.

According to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, the average American will have to work 131 days or until May 11; that is, today, just to pay his or her taxes.

This graph says it all.

I believe it is outrageous. Clearly the time has come for Congress and the President to cut taxes so the American people can keep more of their hard-earned money.

Taxes are at an historic high, higher than World War II. With a strong economy and the Federal Government running a surplus, there will never be a better time than today to cut taxes.

This year's budget calls for 800 billion in reduction in Federal taxes over the next 10 years. This much-needed tax cut will strengthen working families and keep our economy moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work together this year to ensure that the American people receive the tax relief they deserve and not this.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY RESOLUTION

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, peace officers from around the country will travel to Washington for a day of commemoration and honor for fellow officers slain in the line of duty. The National Peace Officers Memorial Day serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifice and commitment to safety that these men and women make on our behalf. I am joined by over 130 of my colleagues as I introduce today a resolution that expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the work these officers perform.

There are currently more than 700,000 men and women who place their lives at risk every day as they serve as the guardians of law and order. Every year approximately 1 in 9 officers is assaulted, 1 in 25 officers is injured, and 1 in 4,400 officers is killed in the line of duty. Last year 158 officers were killed in the line of duty, and about 60,000 were injured.